

## BP Refinery Fact Sheet

### **IDEM:**

- Issues permits that protect human health and the environment.
- Has made no exceptions to state or federal water quality regulations in issuing the wastewater treatment permit to BP. The company is held to limits that meet or surpass federal protective water quality requirements.
- Works to protect valuable water resources, including Lake Michigan, by issuing environmental permits that meet regulatory requirements and requiring companies to meet their legal permit limits.
- Inspects permitted facilities to verify they are meeting permit limits and we take action against those who do not meet their environmental obligations.

### **The Wastewater Permit...**

- **Prohibits discharge of untreated wastewater.** The permit requires the company to treat their wastewater before releasing it 3,500 feet from the shoreline in Lake Michigan.
- **Prohibits placing sludge into the lake.** Sludge must be disposed of so it cannot reach water. The permit requires the company to follow state and federal laws to ensure the protection of human health, aquatic life, and the environment.

### **The Wastewater Permit Requires...**

- **All wastewater be treated before it is released.** The new permit has restrictions and monitoring never before required for this facility. The increase in ammonia is still limited to one-half of the federal requirement. The increase in total suspended solids (TSS) makes the permit similar to the limits imposed on a small sized city. The wastewater must be treated and meet the permit limits before being discharged.
- **Compliance with state and federal laws.** The facility must follow all strict state and federal laws to ensure high-quality water. BP will be required to test the toxicity of its discharge for protective purposes. The plant's discharge will not affect the drinking water, recreation or aquatic life in Lake Michigan.

### **The public participated in developing this permit.**

This permit was the result of substantial citizen participation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided review prior to the permit being issued. IDEM received written comments from 46 people during the comment period – which lasted several weeks and included a public meeting at Whiting City Hall. The permit document was on file in several locations before the public meeting, including the Lake County Health Department and the IDEM office in northwest Indiana, IDEM's offices in Indianapolis and on IDEM's Web site.

### **Permit Timeline**

- Draft Permit on Public Notice, 3/16/07
- Public Meeting held in Whiting, 4/26/07
- Comment Period on Draft Permit ended, 5/11/07
- Final Permit issued, 6/21/07
- Appeal Period ended, 7/9/07

## **Basic Facts**

### Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

- TSS is not sludge.
- BP's discharge will not contain concentrated amounts of metals; metals are separately limited in the new permit and in every case, the metal limits are equivalent to or more stringent than the previous permit.
- The amount of TSS that may be released is comparable to that of a small-sized city.
- The state is not aware of any technology available to remove further TSS.

### Sludge

- No sludge will be dumped into Lake Michigan. The permit prohibits sludge from being discharged into Lake Michigan.

### Ammonia

- The maximum ammonia discharge will be less than one-half the allowable federal limit.